



Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilot

Taunton, MA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$250,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, brownfields cleanup revolving loan fund (BCRLF) programs (each funded up to \$1,000,000 over five years), to provide financial assistance for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

Taunton has a long history as a manufacturing center. The City's industrial areas were involved with iron, precious metals, and textile manufacturing. Many of Taunton's businesses have downsized or moved out of the community. As a result, hundreds of acres of property have been abandoned and over 1 million square feet of industrial space has been left vacant or underutilized. Many of the properties are environmentally contaminated and may be a threat to public health.

The Historic Weir Industrial Village is home to a major concentration of brownfields and is the target area of the Taunton Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) program. This once vibrant area has become unsafe, unsightly, and devoid of jobs. Poverty rates in this area reach 13.5% (40% higher than the rest of the City), and the median per capita income is just over \$13,000 per year. The area has been designated as an Economic Opportunity Area by the Massachusetts Economic Development Incentive Program. This designation allows the City to offer both State and local tax incentives to companies that locate or expand within this area.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Taunton, MA

Date of Announcement:
April 2001

Amount: \$500,000

BCRLF Target Area:
Historic Weir Industrial Village

Contacts:

Mayor's Office of
Community Development
(508) 821-1030

Region 1 Brownfields
Coordinator
(617) 918-1210

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

BCRLF OBJECTIVES

The Taunton BCRLF seeks to clean up the brownfields in the Weir Village area. Other objectives of the BCRLF are to promote the formation of a “Green Industrial Park” for the Weir Village area, prioritize sites for redevelopment, promote community participation, identify strategies and incentives for reuse of targeted sites, continue site assessments and remediation, and support redevelopment by upgrading infrastructure. The overall objectives of Taunton’s brownfields program are to improve the aesthetic and environmental quality of life for its residents, create job opportunities, increase the tax base, and attract development.

Candidates for BCRLF loans include an aluminum company, a real estate developer seeking to build a home for the elderly, and a plastics recycling company. Additional likely projects will include the redevelopment of a rubber factory and a chemical plant. The targeted sites represent an estimated cleanup cost of over \$3 million with a potential to create over 200 jobs.

FUND STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The lead agency will be the Mayor’s Office of Community Development (MOCD). The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, through a Memorandum of Agreement with the MOCD, will act as the site manager. The Southeastern Economic Development Corporation will act as the fund manager.

LEVERAGING OTHER RESOURCES

A variety of additional funding sources are available to BCRLF loan recipients. The city may apply to the State’s Demolition of Abandoned Buildings Program and seek tax incentives under the State Economic Incentive Program. MassDevelopment and Massachusetts Life Insurance Community Investment Initiative funds will be leveraged as applicable. Federal funding sources include U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 108, Community Development Block Grant, and Brownfields Economic Development Initiative funds. In addition, a number of City departments and local agencies have pledged various types of outreach and planning services support.

Use of BCRLF Pilot funds must be in accordance with CERCLA, and all CERCLA restrictions on use of funding also apply to BCRLF funds.
